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# Non-anonymous Mid-semester Survey to Support Advising General Chemistry Students

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# Non-anonymous Mid-semester Survey to Support Advising General Chemistry Students

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## Abstract

Many first year college students use ineffective study strategies and they cannot understand why they are not earning the kind of good grades they did in high school.

This project aims to use a mid-semester class survey to support students in general chemistry I class. Survey questions are designed to remind students about resources available for them and to help students reflect on their study strategies. During Fall 2020, the class went paperless to cut down on physical contact between students and instructor in response to the COVID pandemic. The survey was administered through Canvas. The non-anonymous survey offers some benefits over the anonymous format. The survey questions are shared here with the explanation about the benefit gained from this non-anonymous survey.



## Class Surveys in General Chemistry Class

### 3 surveys are used in General Chemistry Class

- At the beginning of the class: Self- introduction, Feeling & Class expectation
- Mid-semester: Study strategies, Self-evaluation
- End of semester: Plan for next semester

### Before COVID

- Administered in class
- No points given
- Anonymous
- Mid-semester survey results are shared in class

### Fall 2020 during COVID

- Administered through Canvas
- Part of class participation assignments
- Non-anonymous
- Mid-semester survey results are shared in class

## Mid-semester survey

Please use this survey to reflect on your efforts and performance in this class. **This is a class participation assignment.** It is graded based on completion. However, I hope that you will sincerely think about and answer all the questions as part of your reflection on your study strategies and then come up with a plan to improve your performance.

**"If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you". - Z. Ziglar**

1. Consider the study environment, could there be distractions that take away my focus on studying? (e.g. TV, social media, friends talking, music etc.)  
A) No, there is no distraction      B) sometimes      C) Yes, I am aware of distractions.
2. I go over PowerPoint file(s) and take notes **before** coming to class  
A) regularly      B) sometimes      C) never
3. I work on self-assessment problems at the end of each presentation **before** coming to class  
A) regularly      B) sometimes      C) never, I only did this after class      D) I never look at the PowerPoint files
4. I read the textbook chapter for reading assignments (LS)  
A) Before taking "practice" questions      B) when I am stuck during "practice"  
C) I do not read the textbook, but I do "practice" until I get all correct answers      D) If I have time after submitting "practice"
5. I always work on the homework assignments, quizzes, review problems etc...  
A) on my own      B) with friend(s)      C) with tutor  
D) on my own, and then go over the questions with friends or tutor
6. I write complete steps of my problem solving in my notebooks so that I can discover the reason for incorrect answers.      A) regularly      B) sometimes      C) never
7. I pay attention on the mistakes I made in all the assignments and find out what the correct answers or approaches are, so that I will not make the same mistakes again  
A) Yes, I ask the instructor/Sl/tutor to clarify my misunderstanding and I refigure the answers  
B) No, I found out which questions I missed but I have not refigured them to get the correct answers  
C) No, I have never looked back at the assignments I submitted.
8. I test myself by redoing **example questions in the PowerPoint presentation(s)** before the test  
A) regularly      B) sometimes      C) never
9. I test myself by redoing **all the quizzes** before the test      A) regularly      B) sometimes      C) never
10. I test myself by redoing **review questions** before the test      A) regularly      B) sometimes      C) never
11. I attend Sl      A) regularly      B) sometimes      C) never
12. When I have questions, I.....  
A) go to office hours or make appointment to discuss with the instructor  
B) ask Sl      C) ask tutor      D) do not do anything
13. I use SLOs posted on Canvas for each module as a check list to make sure I have covered everything before the test      A) regularly      B) sometimes      D) never
14. Reflect on your study strategies (e.g. how regular you spend time studying the subject, by yourself or with friends etc.) and also reflect on your performance so far. Have you fully used all the resources available to you for the class? If not, reflect on why? Write down some plans to improve your performance moving forward.
15. I have made all the teaching/learning resources available on Canvas and through teaching. I take appointments and take questions via email, if you cannot make it to my regular office hours. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional help. Please let me know what else I can do to help you or better support your learning in this class.

## Mid-semester Survey

- 13 multiple choice questions with 2 open ended questions
- Have students reflect on their study strategies and study environment
- Remind students of available resources and how/when to properly use them
- Ask for feedback about content delivery
- Non-anonymous
- Use for advising students



## Benefits of Non-anonymous Survey

- Easily follow up with students who did not submit the survey
- Possible to evaluate effectiveness of each class material and students' perspectives versus their grades to improve the particular assignment
- Better advise an individual student on how to improve his/her study habits by considering the answers for each question

### Examples

**Student A:** Q1 I am aware of distraction (frequent calls from friends and family members)

**Advice:** turn off phone, let family members know not to call during the study time

**Student B:** Q8-10 I never test myself by redoing example questions, quizzes, and review questions

**Advice:** redo all the example questions

**Student C:** Q 13 I have never made use of the SLOs

**Advice:** Use the SLOs as a check list to make sure everything has been covered during the study before the test.

## Conclusion

The non-anonymous survey provides information specific to each student's study effort, enabling the instructor to more accurately advise a particular student on ways to improve. When students take an anonymous survey, only general information about the class is gained, not specific to each student.

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